A Translation OF A LETTER FROM THE *SOPHY* of *Persia*, TO THE Great *CZAR* and Emperor of *Russia*;

(Which Letter was accidentally dropt by a *Russian* Minister of STATE.)

My dearest Brother, and Great and Glorious Monarch.

BEING well informed of your generous and benevolent Disposition to all in Distress, especially to crown'd Heads, that are oppressed by

by the Villany and Tyranny of Uſurpers; We deſire, with all Civility and Submiſſion, to implore your Aid and Aſſiſtance, in ſupporting our juſt and legal Title, and Dominions in *Perſia*, from the Invaſion and Uſurpation of one *Meri-Weys*, who has involved my Dominions into great Ruin and Deſolation, by cutting off my deareſt Father, and rendring Us and the Royal Family miſerable.

The baſe and abject Uſurper, by the Inſtigation of ſeveral Deſperadoes and Bankrupts, has headed an Army, declared himſelf Protector of the *Perſian* Religion, Rights, Privileges and Properties; ſo that he has, under this ſpacious Covert and Pretext, miſled many of our Prieſts and well meaning Subjects.

Tho' to Our great Grief, Our Father was unluckily led into ſome impolitical

impolitical Steps, by the baſe Treachery of ill deſigning, hypocritical and crafty Stateſmen, yet we have laid down this unalterable Scheme, as the Rule of Our Government, that we ſhall leave the Regulation of religious Matters to Our *Divan, or ſacred Conſiſtory of Prieſts.* Alſo in relation to Liberty and Property, and to all that is ſacred and valuable, with reſpect to the Regulation of the State, We ſhall refer the Security thereof to the States of Our Empire, whom upon a proper Opportunity, We heartily deſire to meet with, and promiſe to acquieſce in, and give Our Royal Aſſent with Our Sceptre, to all Methods they in their Wiſdom judge convenient to propoſe for the Security of all ſacred and civil Rights, to the Welfare of Our Nation.

As to Our Religion, We thank God,

God, that We have ſtudied all Points of Controverſy; and when any learned Prieſt ſhall converſe with Us upon religious Topicks, and at the ſame Time convince Us of any Miſtakes that We have entertained, We declare Our ſelves willing and ready to yield and ſubmit to their ſound and Orthodox Reaſoning.

Great Sir,

All this Preamble, I am obliged to entertain Your ſacred Majeſty with, in Order to undeceive all who have harboured wrong Notions of Us, as if we were ſo biggoted, as to imbibe wrong Principles with Our Milk. It is well known, how barbarouſly the Rebels have dealt with Our Royal Father, and forced Us to wander and accept of any Education and Entertainment; but ſtill We have a Fatherly Affection for Our People: Our Heart that

s entirely *Perſian*, bleeds for thoſe Calamities that they at preſent grone under, and We wiſh for a bleſſed Opportunity to relieve them out of all their Oppreſſions, to redreſs their heavy Grievances, to abate their exorbitant Taxes, to fall upon Ways and Means to pay the National Debt, to increaſe their Trade and Wealth, by ſettling the ſeveral Companies and Manufactories upon a right Footing, by Excluſion of all Interloppers, and prohibiting effectually the extravagant Export of Gold and Silver, that muſt at laſt ruine Our Subjects, and render them deſpicable over all the World.

It is Our Regret that Foreigners from *Turky*, and other exotick Parts, *Scoundrels*, *Monſters* and *Upſtarts*, do rule, hector, and domineer; Men who are not acquainted with the Laws & Conſtitutions of our Dominions. Oh! how have the Rebels contrary

to

to Law, Juſtice and Equity; baniſhed, forfeited, and butchered our Loyaliſts. What Incroachment has been made upon the ſtated Rules and Procedures of Judicatures, and new Ways invented to condemn and inveigle the Innocent.

How have theſe Rogues, by their dark Projects ruined and robbed our Subjects of many Millions, and ſcreened themſelves and their fellow Plunderers from Juſtice.

It draws Tears from our Eyes to find that the *Prieſts*, and *Mufties* are ignorant, illiterate, and ſo flattering as to ſooth the vile Uſurper in his Uſurpation, Oppreſſion and Luſts.

Pray then, *Great and Good Monarch*, as you hope for Favour and Protection from the Almighty, the *King of all Kings*, to eſpouſe our miſerable tho' juſt Cauſe, to relieve our Subjects, and be the Glorious

and

and happy Inſtrument of retrieving the flouriſhing ſtate of our Lieges, who now are oppreſſed with Miſery, and yet all they ſuffer is miſcalled a *Glorious and happy Revolution*; notwithſtanding all Sacred and Civil Laws, all Property, Right and Liberty are trampled upon; while Injuſtice and Oppreſſion triumph, and ſit in the Chair of Verity and Juſtice, over-ruling and trampling upon Honour, Juſtice, Equity, and all that is Sacred, Dear and Valuable.

By your Inteligence your Majeſty may be aſſured, that the Generality of our Subjects are now throughly convinced, that the States of our Kingdoms have dealt unjuſtly and harſhly with us, an innocent Perſonage, who could not act any Thing without their Head, and lawful Sovereign: And yet we are content to ſubmit the State of our Dominions to their Cognizance. All now who have been miſled and hoodwinked clearly diſcern, that they and their Poſterity muſt for ever remain miſerable, unleſs We and Our Family be reſtored ſpeedily to our juſt Right, and till that be happily brought about, Religion as well as the Prieſts will ſuffer, and be harraſſed at an extrordinary Rate;

Rate; and exposed to the Envy, Revenge and Malice of ambitious Laicks.

In Consideration of this our earnest Request, may it please Your Imperial Majesty, who is the Protector of Innocence to aid us and Our Loyalists with a speedy Succour, and Support; For Your Majesty may depend upon it, that upon the Appearance of Your Highnesses Forces, We and Our faithful Subjects will joyn them, and overpower the Rebels to their great Confusion, that Our Kingdom may enjoy Tranquillity, Trade, Liberty and Property.

O may that joyful Day approach, when we may have the blessed Occasion of Praising God for Our Restoration, and returning Your Majesty a suitable return for Your helping Hand in Our Distress; That all Usurpers may be discouraged, and discomfited. And that great Renown and Glory may accrue to Your sacred Memory, for relieving the oppressed Cause of Us who are, in all sincerity, Your most humble Supplicant, and affectionate Brother.

Sophis Soliman King of *Persia*.

From the Camp near *Derbent*.

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